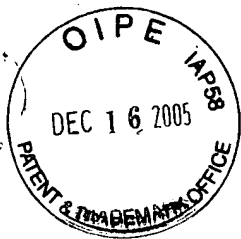


12-19-05

AF
IPW



I hereby certify that this Notice of Appeal and a fee are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated below, addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the 16th day of December, 2005.

Ray R. Regan, Registration No. 36,899

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re Application of: Steve B. Taylor
Sole Inventor: Steve B. Taylor
For: A Coupler
Filing Date: June 20, 2003
Application Number: 10/600,379
Attorney Docket Number: 2236.001
Express Mail Label Number: ED666641893US
Group Art Unit: 3679
Examiner: Victor MacArthur

**NOTICE OF APPEAL
FROM THE EXAMINER TO THE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES
and
REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT**

To: Mail Stop NOTICE OF APPEAL
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Honorable Members of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences:

As provided in 37 C.F.R. §1.191, Applicant hereby appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interference ("Board") from the final decision of the Examiner mailed to Applicant on December 7, 2005 ("Final Office Action"), rejecting the following claims: 1-22.

Claims 23-31 were withdrawn from examination by restriction, with traverse.

No questions relating to other matters not affecting the merits of the invention are pending.

The Examiner has finally rejected claims 1-22.

As provided in MPEP §1205, this Notice of Appeal is timely filed.

As provided in 37 C.F.R. §1.192, Appellant understand that Appellant's Brief is to be filed within two (2) months from the date of filing this Notice of Appeal.

**Reinstatement of Appeal
And
Payment of Fees**

Applicant previously filed a Notice of Appeal on June 2, 2004. In response, the Examiner reopened prosecution. Accordingly, Applicant now requests reinstatement of the appeal and, as provided in MPEP §1204.01, as well as application of the fees previously paid by Applicant toward the fees for this appeal.

Applicant, a small entity, previously paid the sum of \$330.00 for the filing fees in connection with the Notice of Appeal and Appellant's Appeal Brief. Applicant understands that in view of the new increased fees for appeals, Applicant will be required to pay the sum of \$170.00 when Appellant's Appeal Brief is filed.

The Commissioner is, however, authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 501565 for the Law Office of Ray R. Regan, P.A.

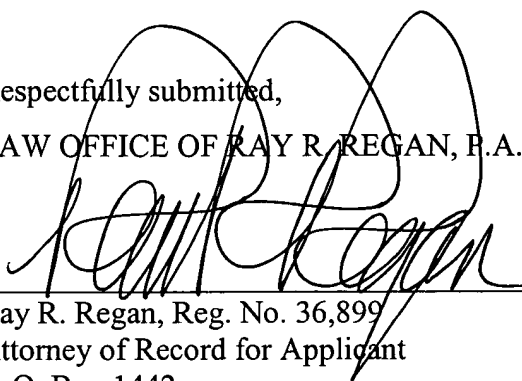
Applicant has also paid a fee for extension of time to file a currently pending Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. If an additional extension of time is required for the filing of this

Notice of Appeal, the Commissioner is authorized to consider this a petition for such an additional extension of time and to charge any additional fees that may required to Deposit Account No. 501565 for the Law Office of Ray R. Regan, P. A.

A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICE OF RAY R. REGAN, P.A.



Ray R. Regan, Reg. No. 36,899
Attorney of Record for Applicant
P. O. Box 1442
Corrales, New Mexico 87048
Telephone (505) 897-7200
Facsimile (866) 425-2597
E-mail rayregan@rayregan.com